CBF Semiannual

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 I October 2021 - March 2022

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC in November 2019 with the support from the Government of Germany through KfW. It is an innovative finance mechanism to support small-scale projects implemented by registered non-government organisations to increase the resilience of people who are displaced or at the risk of being displaced due to impacts of climate change in Bangladesh.

CBF has two separate windows to support different types of adaptation and risk reduction measures. The Climate Change Window (CCW) supports the climate-induced migrants of five priority areas (Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Satkhira, and Sirajganj), and expanding the coverage, the Emergency Response Window (ERW) supports the climate-induced migrants living in the COVID-19 hotspots of the country.

In this issue

CBF at COP26
Page - 02

Workshop for sharing lessons learnt with implementing partners
Page - 02

A delegation from the Government of Germany visits CBF projects at Khulna
Page - 03

Working towards increasing the access of climate migrants to WASH
Page - 04

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CBF Semiannual
NEWSLETTER
Issue 1 I October 2021 - March 2022

CBF at COP26

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. On 6 November 2021, a side event was organised at the Bangladesh Pavilion where Asif Saleh, Executive Director, BRAC chaired and moderated a panel discussion on the Climate Bridge Fund. CBF has been featured as a unique model to address challenges of climate-induced migrants and people living in vulnerable situations in the urban areas through promoting locally-led adaptation solutions.

Md Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, was present as the Chief Guest in the event. He praised BRAC and KfW for this timely initiative to focus on climate change adaptation in Bangladesh through CBF as it aligns with the priorities of the Government of Bangladesh.

Dr Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, and member of the Advisory Committee of CBF added that the trust fund is a way to ensure that climate funding reaches the people who are in the most vulnerable situations through an organisation that can handle the financing.

Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of the Fund Secretariat was the keynote speaker who presented the process and progress of CBF. Some pictures from the field gave the distinguished guests and the audience an idea about the type of adaptation solutions the awarded projects are implementing.

Mr. Asif Saleh, Executive DIrector, BRAC, Ms. Barbara Schäfer, Head of Section, BMZ, and Mr. Md Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (from left) at Bangladesh Pavilion during COP26. Photo: BRAC.

Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of the CBF Secretariat, presented on CBF in a side event during COP26. Photo: BRAC.

Workshop for sharing lessons learnt with implementing partners

CBF conducted a “Workshop for Sharing Lessons Learnt with Implementing Partners” on 13-14 December 2021 at BCDM Rajendrapur. Colleagues directly involved in project implementation participated in the workshop.

Four projects awarded under the CCW 2020 call finished their data collection for baseline survey and analysis, and shared the findings. Along with the baseline discussions, the partners highlighted their experience and lessons learnt during project implementation.

One of the key discussion points of the workshop was to share the monitoring and evaluation framework of CBF. Since the project achievements will eventually contribute to the CBF framework, therefore partners did an exercise to align their project-specific frameworks with the CBF.

The workshop was fruitful with the presence of Dr Md Liakath Ali, Member, Trustee Board, CBF, Prof Dr Ainun Nishat, Speaker, Advisory Committee of the Climate Bridge Fund (ACCF), CBF and S M Mehedi Ahsan, Senior Urban Resilience Specialist, KfW Bangladesh Office as distinguished guests.

The participants and guests of the workdhop. Photo: CBF

Mr. Saief Manzoor-Al-Islam from WaterAid Bangladesh is sharing the project progress and lessons learnt. Photo: CBF.

CBF Semiannual
NEWSLETTER
Issue 1 I October 2021 - March 2022

A delegation from the Government of Germany visits CBF projects at Khulna

Greenland slum (ghat 7, ward number 21) at Khulna City Corporation (KCC) is an example of comprehensive solutions where three projects of the Climate Bridge Fund supported by KfW are being implemented. The three projects are providing a diverse range of support including livelihood, water and sanitation, drainage and roads, solid waste management, eco-friendly cooking stoves, eco-friendly housing, skills training for enterprise development and cash support. Beneficiaries are also receiving health support and various awareness sessions to prevent climate-sensitive diseases.

The three projects are being implemented by BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme and Disaster Risk Management Programme, BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme and Caritas Bangladesh.

The honourable mayor of Khulna CIty Corporation (KCC) is welcoming Ms. Barbara Schäfer, Head of Section, BMZ. Photo: CBF.

The project beneficiaries and interventions have been visited by a high delegation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, German Embassy, KfW and GIZ on 23 March, 2022. The honourable mayor of Khulna City Corporation along with the high officials of KCC welcomed and accompanied the delegation. The community briefed the projects and showed the interventions to the visitors.

Dr Md Liakath Ali is briefing the BMZ delegation about the solar-powered submersible pump with rainwater harvesting system consrtucted at Greenland Abashan slum. Photo: CBF.

The visitors are visiting a health forum organised by BRAC HNPP at Greenland Abashan slum. Photo: CBF.

Working towards increasing the access of the climate migrants to WASH

Khulna (KCC) and Rajshahi City Corporations (RCC) are the two among the five hotspots where the highest number of climate-induced migrants live. Four CBF funded projects have been working in selected slums in both the city corporations targeting these climate-induced migrants.

The main water source for drinking and domestic purposes for people living in informal settlements in Khulna City Corporation (58%) and Rajshahi City Corporation (96%) is tube-well, which are inadequate in number (GIZ, 2019). Most remain out of service during summer due to water level descending, and become unusable due to irregular maintenance. Approximately two-thirds of the slum population in KCC (69%) and RCC (65%) don't have access to the sanitary latrines as the number of sanitary latrines is not sufficient in the community and the condition of latrines is fragile due to lack of maintenance and repair (GIZ, 2019). In addition, poor drainage facilities in the slums cause water logging which becomes more acute during the rainy season.

The four projects have been working to address the climate risks on both ecological and physical infrastructures through constructing and/or reconstructing water points, sanitary latrines, drainages, and pathways.

CBF Semiannual
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Untill December 2021, the projects have repaired and constructed the following measures:

13 toilets on raised platforms

5 (554 feet) drainage systems to avoid water logging

25 safe drinking water sources and **one** solar-powered submersible pump with rainwater harvesting system to ensure access to water throughout the year

CBF follows a locally-led adaptation approach, where the community representatives identify their needs, decide the locations for the facilities and contribute in all the steps of the construction work with the guidance of the local implementing partners. The local representatives (ward councilors) are also consulted and they actively participate in the overall activities in the settlement.

Some project interventions in KCC and RCC

To address the scarcity of safe drinking water during normal and disaster periods, DRMP constructed a solar powered submersible water pump with rain water harvesting system. The total capacity of the tanks is 6,000 litres.

Photo: BRAC and CBF

An unhygienic and insecured toilet in the community (left photo) which has been renovated (right photo) by Caritas Bangladesh. They also installed a tubewell and the plinth has been raised for both of the infrastructures.

Photo: Caritas Bangladesh and CBF

A newly renovated plinth raised tubewell (right photo) by WaterAid Bangladesh.

Photo: WaterAid Bangladesh

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